

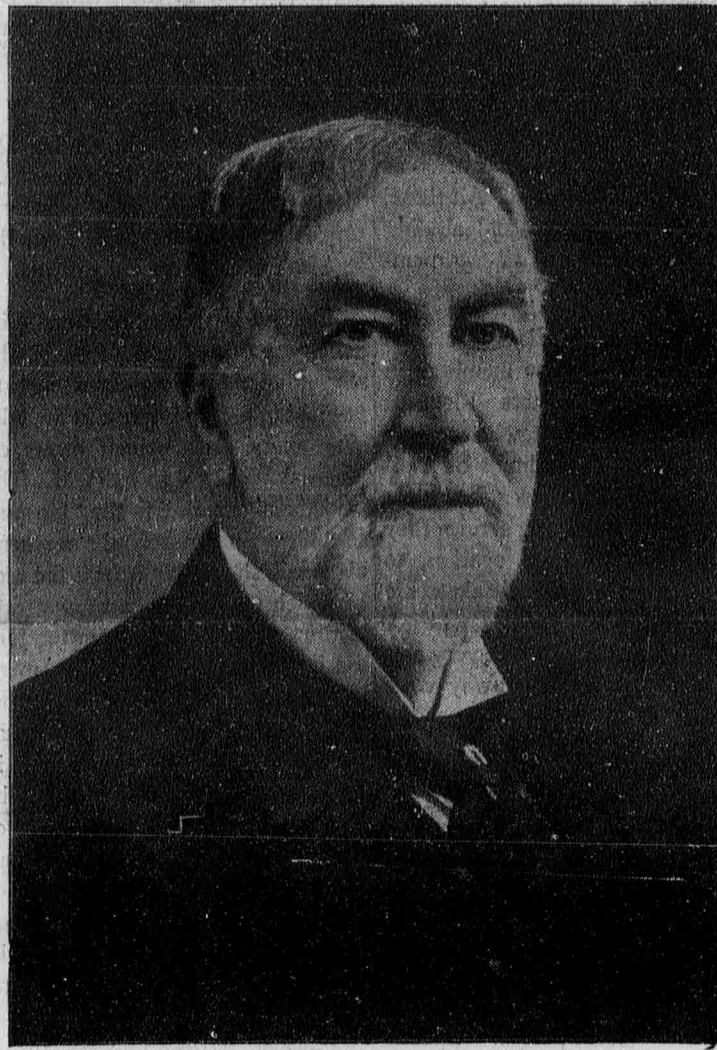
POLITICS IN WEST VIRGINIA

There is perhaps no state which is as far South as is "The Little Mountain" State about which there is as little fear of Democratic invasion as West Virginia. It is rumored, doubtless by the Democrats for effect sake, that there is grave danger of losing the Second District, but careful investigation discloses the fact that this report is not well founded. Perhaps, however, there is no district so well fortified with reference to being impregnable against Democracy as the Old Fifth, which, beyond a doubt, will send Hon. J. A. Hughes back to Congress with an increased majority. Peculiar thing about that man is the harder they fight him the more votes he secures. So much so is this true that he is only alarmed when he hasn't a fight on. In the very center of this district, however, is the famous "Free State of McDowell," about which all the other counties must crowd and doff their hats when

well looked after by Congressman Woodyard. There seems to be no question about his return.

The Third District

When all is said and done it will be found on the morning of the ninth of November that Hon. J. H. Gaines will be sent back to the halls of Congress. True, there has been some little fight in this district, but it has been a healthy, clean one, and all the sores, if there were any, have healed, and the common good of the party is the uppermost theme now in every man's mind. Here is another county where the colored vote is tremendous. Coupled with that, it is of an intelligent and high order. Among those craggy mountains will be found some of the best politically-trained Negroes that this country produces, and those who know politics from A to Z. There is one thing about the Negro vote in Fayette county—they fight out their



HON. NATHAN BAY SCOTT.

The above is the likeness of the Grand Old Warrior and Statesman whom the Republicans of West Virginia delight to honor and whom they will send back to the United States Senate by an increased number of votes over his last election. Along with Senator Foraker, he was the one man who stood up for the Negro soldier and refused to lend his aid and his vote to the wholesale discharge of a regiment for the alleged misconduct of the few.

it comes to a question of organization. Not the organization that means bossism, but that of co-operation, and that also which obtains results. This is due first to splendid leadership by such men as Dr. Hatfield, Hon. W. W. Whyte and a host of others, but the rank and file must not be forgotten, for when the colored boys of McDowell decide upon a thing the thing to do is to stand aside and let them pass, for pass they will. It may be safely said that the Fifth is safe, and the only thing Congressman Hughes has to do is to sit and wait until November 8, and in the meantime purchase his ticket for the Capital City.

The Fourth District

Next in point of security may be said to be the Fourth District, represented so ably by that genial mixer and prince of gentlemen, Hon. H. C. Woodyard. It is said of him that he can cover more ground, shake more hands and do more things to the satisfaction of more people at once than any man in the Northern end of the State, and we believe it. While the vote (colored) in this district is not as large as that of the Fifth or Third, it cuts quite a figure, and is

differences before and at the nomination, and after that every man puts his shoulder to the wheel and pushes. It is almost a standoff between the organization of McDowell and Fayette among the Negro vote. The main difference may be said to be that while the organization of Fayette is older, that of McDowell is larger. Such leaders in Fayette as Hon. M. J. Simms, Judge Bennett, Messrs. Hawkins, Ramsey, Middleburg, Anderson and a host of others supported by the colored leaders, Hon. Jas. Ellis, Hon. Jno. S. Noel, Mr. Buster, Dr. O. W. Hodge and others make it practically impossible to penetrate that stronghold.

The Second District

Hon. George Sturgis will no doubt be returned. While there may have been some little trouble which always grows out of the appointment of postmasters, as the time approaches the need of unity of purpose and concert of action will be readily seen by those who feel aggrieved, and for the sake of the party, and because they are too loyal Republicans to turn against that party, they will lend their sup-

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Some Things That Are Happening

A Weekly Resume of the Activities of
People Worth While

By R. W. THOMPSON

The political horizon continues to show brighter spots for the "brother in black."

President Taft, following his program to take up in orderly fashion the many and varied problems that require attention at his hands as President of all the people, held a conference at Beverly last Wednesday, by appointment, with a group of Negro leaders out, of which doubtless will soon come some important and far-reaching results.

Emmett J. Scott, secretary to Booker T. Washington; Charles W. Anderson, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Second District of New York, and James A. Cobb, Assistant United States District Attorney, Washington, D. C., were the President's visitors.

The President expressed himself as appreciating general conditions as they exist among the colored people, as explained by his visitors, and announced himself as being in hearty sympathy with the suggestion that some encouragement be given to them along the lines suggested in his inaugural address—that "the recognition of their distinguished men, any appointment to office from among their number is properly taken as an encouragement and an appreciation of their progress."

Some appointments out of the ordinary class of places bestowed upon colored citizens are likely to be made at an early date. This will mark a new era in the progress of the colored people, and be a distinct advance over political conditions of the past.

The conference is said to have been marked with great cordiality, and with very great frankness on both sides. The President's assurances are said to have led his visitors to take a most hopeful view of the policies to be pursued in the future with regard to the Negro people.

Governor Pinchback Takes Hold

Governor P. B. S. Pinchback left for New York Sunday morning to be in readiness to assume the duties of his new office on Monday. He is a deputy collector of internal revenue for the second district of New York, and his salary is between \$3,000 and \$3,500 per annum. The appointment is one of the most popular that any President has made in a score of years, and will go far to allay the complaint in some quarters that the present administration is not friendly disposed toward the Negro as an officeholder.

Governor Pinchback wielded a tremendous influence in politics during and after reconstruction days, and has participated in all of the campaigns since the Negro became a citizen. In many national conventions he has been a delegate and a potent factor in naming the candidate for the Presidency. He is now a citizen of the State of New York, but for the greater part of the last 25 years he has made his home in Washington, where he has been a large property-holder. It is presumed that the appointment of Governor Pinchback may be attributed to the activity of friends identified with the Booker T. Washington wing of the civic compact.

Conference of Independent League

The executive committee of the National Independent League held a conference Thursday at Galbraith A. M. E. Zion Church. Rev. S. L. Corrothers, president of the local league, presided. At the public meeting in the evening Bishop Alexander Walters, president of the national organization, delivered an earnest address, urging the Negro to unite for his political salvation, independent

of any party, to establish what is now a negligible quantity, a political leadership. W. Monroe Trotter devoted his speech to an arraignment of Theodore Roosevelt's speech at the New York meeting of the National Negro Business League, concluding with a challenge to the Colonel to meet him (Trotter) in joint debate on the race question at any point that might be mutually agreed upon.

The League, by agreement, decided to advise the colored voters in New York to support Dix for Governor; in New Jersey to stand by Woodrow Wilson; in Ohio to vote for Harmon; in Indiana, vote for legislators favorable to John W. Kern for Senator, and in Massachusetts vote against legislative candidates favorable to the re-election of Senator Lodge. Senator Bulkeley is to be supported in Connecticut, and in West Virginia and Delaware the voters are advised to stand up for the full Republican ticket. The League, it is said, plans to wage a vigorous campaign along the lines marked out, and will have the sinews of war to carry out their policies. How much ice the movement will cut is yet to be determined.

"Dick" Shaw Out of Senate Restaurant

Without the sale of liquor the Senate restaurant is a losing proposition according to the experience of Richard A. Shaw, the veteran headwaiter, who for the past two years has been in full charge of the cafe where the "grave and reverend seignors" are wont to fill the inner man. When Mr. Shaw was given the management two years ago, after 35 years of service as headwaiter, it was thought that he could make it a "go," if anybody could, as he knew better than anyone else just what appealed to the appetite of every Senator in the chamber. He was to receive any profit he could make, but not only were there no profits, despite the fact that he had no rent or other expenses to pay, he is poorer in pocket today by something over \$600, and needs no further proof that a Senate restaurant cannot be conducted successfully on a prohibition basis. Shaw's predecessors likewise "went into the hole" following the curtailment of the liquor privilege. The committee on rules has elected Lyman F. Sterns, formerly manager of the cafe at the Chevy Chase Golf Club, as Shaw's successor. Sterns is a white man.

That "Mass-Meeting" a "Frost"

The alleged "mass-meeting" called by some irresponsible individual to "protest" against the administration of the existing school system and to force the removal of Assistant Superintendent Roscoe Conkling Bruce turned out to be the worst kind of a "frost." Widespread advertising and much fuss and feathers succeeded in bringing to True Reformers' Hall last Friday evening an "outpouring" of 10 indignant citizens. Sundry orators "orated," and some cut-and-dried resolutions were presented, all to the effect that there is something the matter with our public schools. No remedy was suggested, save the removal of Superintendent Bruce, although no nomination was made of any other educator who would be likely to give any large degree of satisfaction to the various elements of our 100,000 people than the present incumbent. No one claims that the school system is perfect, but it is producing better results than any that has yet been devised, and it is difficult to convince the substantial

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VANITY FAIR

Conducted by JOHN H. WILLS.

The Main Difference Between Civilized Man and the
Savage Is—Savages Don't Read.Relation of Negro Population to
Health in This City

For many years those in authority and prominence have endeavored to create the impression that Washington, D. C., was a healthy city, as healthy cities go. I am perfectly willing to let that pleasing fiction pass into belief through constant reiteration until such reports as this below come to my notice:

(Washington Times, Sunday, October 9.)

City's Death Rate Is Third Greatest

Census Figures Show Washington Mortality Record One of Worst in U. S.

NEGRO POPULATION ATTRIBUTED CAUSE

Poor Housing and Housekeeping Blamed—Denied Capital Is Unhealthy

Figures made public by the Census Bureau show that Washington has the third largest death rate of any city in the United States.

The highest death rate was reached by New Orleans with 20.2 per thousand. Next was Fall River, Mass., with 19.1, and the third greatest was Washington, D. C., with 19.

The high death rate in the District of Columbia is attributed by Health Officer Woodward to the large percentage of negro population.

"As far as relative healthful conditions are concerned," said Dr. Woodward, "I would be just as willing to take my chances in Washington as in St. Paul, which has the lowest death rate of any city in the country. The figures of the Census Bureau cannot be taken as conclusive proof that Washington is an unhealthy city."

"The high death rate is attributable more than anything else to the large percentage of negro population. The colored death rate for the year 1909 was 26.70 per cent., as compared to 14.73 per cent. among the whites."

BAD HOUSING CAUSE.

"The high death rate among the colored race is, in my judgment, due to bad housing, incident, to a certain extent, to defective construction and location, but probably to an even greater extent to bad housekeeping, to bad clothing, to bad feeding, and to the absence of needed medical attendance when needed. And all of these are due to poverty and ignorance."

"For the excessive death rate among our colored people there is no sovereign remedy. The Government has already done much to reduce it. Other things must be done, and are now under consideration, as the establishment of public baths, the reclamation of the Anacostia flats, and the extension of public playgrounds."

"Everything further depends upon the initiative of the individual, and the most that can be done is to place the individual in a position where he will take that initiative."

"This can be effected only by education, not necessarily school education, but in the art of keeping the home, however poor, clean, and of making the best use of such facilities as it affords for light and ventilation."

REMEDY SUGGESTED.

"As for the general high death rate in the District of Columbia I can offer no other explanation. The reclamation of the Anacostia flats, for which the Commissioners have this year included an item in their estimates, would, in my opinion, lower the general death rate."

"The elimination of the slums also would tend toward that end, but at the same time the slums are a factor to be considered in other large cities which have a lower death rate than Washington."

"All things considered, Washington, in my opinion, is not an unhealthy city, and the individual who will follow the simple rules of health, cleanliness and sanitation stands as good a chance of longevity in Washington as in any of the cities which show a much smaller death rate."

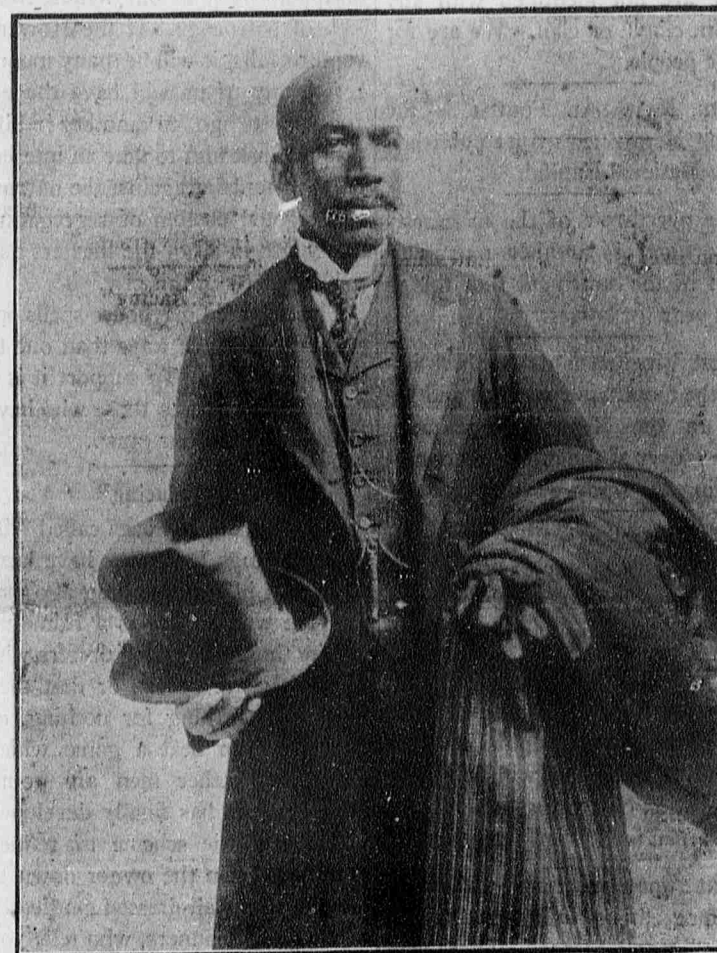
AVERAGE DEATH RATE.

It is estimated by the Census Bureau that the general average death rate for the United States was 15 per thousand. St. Paul, Minn., had the lowest death rate—11.4 per one thousand—of the cities of more than 100,000 for the year 1909, with the exception of five cities not included in the computations.

"The poor are with us always," and the larger, the greater, the more wealthy and cultured the city, the more poverty, squalor and igno-

rance. The greater the splendor, the greater the misery. It is unfortunately true that the majority of the poor and ignorant of Washington are colored people. If there were no colored people here the ignorance and squalor would be greater and the death-rate higher.

Within the city proper the height above sea level for Washington is but little above 12 feet. This is too low for healthy human habitation. The major portion of this city lays in a marshy river bed at sea level, or but a few feet above. The average death rate reported above is the lowest ever given. Before the reclamation of the Potomac flats, the installation of a filtration plant and pumping-house, which forces the sewage far down the Potomac, this



HENRY FORRESTER.

city had a very high death rate, particularly from zymotic diseases.

The Eastern Branch flats are a disgrace to any civilized community. Anyone crossing either bridge at low tide in warm weather can see, and smell also, why Washington is unhealthy. The colored people are not the cause of that. Nor do they cause the Potomac to filter through several miles of filthy marsh above Great Falls, nor the inhabitants along its borders from Georgetown to its source to dump filth into the water most of us have to drink. The city authorities and the landowners are the causes of the existence of the slums, not the poor people who are compelled by poverty and ignorance to exist in them.

Congress and the municipal authorities have had the causes of unhealthy conditions constantly before their notice, but for some reason, or lack of reason, have been tardy, slow and indifferent toward action of remedy. Of course, they cannot raise town out of its marshy bed, but they can reclaim the million acres of flats in the Eastern Branch and protect the water supply from pollution, and further increase the sewage and other sanitary necessities of the city. And another thing, to compare the death rate among a small number of inhabitants to a total over two-thirds greater is unfair and will naturally show a higher average rate for the smaller number. This is misleading.

Colonel Roosevelt Down South

"By George! If I thought I could carry a single Southern State

I would willingly run for the Presidency." The Colonel is quoted by the press as having made this strikingly Rooseveltian expression in Atlanta, Ga., a few days ago. If the Colonel desires to become a real champion Boss Killer, the South offers him a fine chance. There are enough rings to break up down there to keep him busy for quite a while, and he can have strenuous life aplenty and carry several Southern States. The entire Southern people are not satisfied with the forcible and fraudulent suppression of liberty and true government that is practiced in that boss-ridden section of our country.

What's Doing Among the Pullman
Car Porters

By GEN. HENRY FORRESTER.

Gen. Henry Forrester, who has been in the Pennsylvania Pullman service for 30 years, and for the last twenty a fixture on the "Congressional Limited," running between Washington and New York city, will have charge of all news pertaining

to the Pullman car porters and railroad men. THE FORUM is pleased to have on its staff of correspondents a man who is so well known, and who has endeared himself to the people of Washington for his generosity and charitable benefactions. All news pertaining to railroad men will be received at the office of THE FORUM, corner of 11th and U streets, or at the residence of Gen. Henry Forrester, 906 T street N. W., Washington, D. C.

Pullman Porter Notes

Mr. Nelson Sewell of 199 Delaware avenue has been confined to his bed for two months.

Miss Olivia Williams of 213 York street has been at Stafford, Conn., for a few weeks.

Messrs. E. L. Brown and Thomas Henry Williams visited Baltimore and Washington, and spent a delightful week.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Williams attended the B. M. C. at Baltimore, and had a pleasant trip.

Mr. J. C. Gunnell of 44th street, Bayonne, has been indisposed for some time.

The Excelsior Military Band of New York city will give its second concert and reception at Grand Central Palace on December 9, 1910.

The porters will have the pleasure of running through the tunnel into the new Pennsylvania Railroad station in New York on November 27, 1910.